



UAIS September Newsletter September 1, 2016

Dear UAIS Parents,

As the new school year approaches, I am excited to welcome the class of 2020 as well as see the anticipation for the new school year from our returning students at registration this past week. We have some new faces with us to begin the 2016-17 school year. I am happy to welcome Mrs. Susan Fitzsimonds, our new counselor, to UAIS. She comes to us from Stevenson High School and replaces Ms. Ackerman, who took a new position in her home state of New York. Mrs. Fitzsimonds and I have already spent significant time working together to get her up to speed on all things UAIS. As you may already be aware, our former building principal, Mr. Scott Waak, decided to retire over the summer. Our new building principal, Mrs. Shaun Green-Beebe, also comes to us from Stevenson High School, where she served as vice principal last year. Finally, Mr. Ken Voakes is our new assistant principal from Eppler Junior High, replacing Mrs. Veronica Tow, who has returned to a teaching assignment in the district. Through my conversations and meetings with these new faces, I can tell you we're very lucky to add them all the UAIS team, and they are all excited to be with us. Meanwhile, I am pleased to announce that our entire teaching staff at UAIS remains fully intact from last school year.

Communication with UAIS Families

Near the beginning of every month, you will receive my monthly newsletter, which will provide all families important information about upcoming events, deadlines, and other key information regarding everything that happens at UAIS. Additionally, you should also receive a weekly bulletin on every Friday (sometimes Monday if I am out of the building) regarding the calendar for the upcoming week. Finally, I may also email an important emerging issue from time to time with any time-sensitive information. These emails are the primary source of communication with UAIS families. While it may be tempting to glance these over or delete them from your inbox, I encourage you to read them thoroughly, keeping in mind that our students may not always be reliable to communicate messages home that we share with them!

For the moment, please disregard information on the uais.uticak12.org website, as some of it is inaccurate. Until I receive training on how to update the new format, please email me

directly with inquiries to specific forms you may be in need of. Once again, I appreciate your patience during this transition.

Email/Contact Changes

If you stop receiving our weekly bulletins or monthly newsletters, or if you wish to change your email address, please let our office clerk, Mrs. Bihary (gayle.bihary@uticak12.org), aware of the change, so that she can update Powerschool, which is used to send the monthly newsletters and weekly mailings out.

Bus Transportation

The UAIS bus schedule has now been published by the school district on the district website and the UCS mobile application for smart devices. Please verify your child's bus time and location and plan on arriving at bus stops a few minutes early on the opening days of school.

Mandatory IB Junior Parent Meeting

Attention parents of current junior students: this is a reminder to my earlier emails last spring that we will have our mandatory junior parent meeting at 6:30pm on Wednesday, September 7th in the UAIS cafeteria. This is the second day of school. The meeting will last around one hour. While students are not required to attend, at least one parent from each family must be in attendance for your child before we will register him/her as an IB Full Diploma Candidate. The IBO requires that we provide important information with parents about IB testing, costs, policies, procedures and safety issues with families. Attendance will be taken. Families not present will be required to attend a makeup meeting during school hours at a date and time to be announced. Please email me with any questions or concerns.

School Supplies

I would like to thank all those families for donating general school supplies at registration. Once again, we are asking that each family donate 1 box Kleenex, 1 hand sanitizer, 1 pack of highlighters and 1 pack of Expo Dry Erase markers. If you have not already participated, you may drop them off the first day of school in my or Mr. Layson's offices. Specific classroom supplies that teachers recommend for students will be provided next week.

UAIS Open House

Please mark in your calendars that UAIS Open House will take place on Tuesday, September 20th at 6:00pm. Please note the change in the tentative time I provided last spring. The opening presentation will take place in the cafeteria before parents will be excused to classrooms to meet your student's teachers. We look forward to seeing you that evening, and we hope you'll join us!

Early Dismissal Policy

If your child is in need of an early dismissal, please contact the main office one-day in advance to make this arrangement. That way, our office staff can prepare all early dismissal passes before the busy school day begins, which will minimize any delay when you arrive to pick up your child.

Senior IB Exam Registration

On Friday, September 16th, Mr. Layson will visit all TOK classes to provide seniors with a DRAFT of their previously reported IB classes/levels in which they expect to test in this coming May. Please note this in your calendars so that you can discuss this document with your student and sign this form which verifies that you and your child consulted on this important matter. Mr. Layson will meet with each senior in September to finalize this document and provide students with their official invoice for their May 2017 exam session, which will be due on Friday, October 21st. Payment can be made by check, money order, or paid online with a credit card through Payschool on the uais.uticak12.org website once it is finally up and running. More information will accompany the official invoices following the second week of school.

UAIS Powderpuff Tournament

Every fall, UAIS students play in our annual Powderpuff Tournament against our in-county IB rivals from the International Academy of Macomb. This event not only serves as an excellent CAS project for students at both schools but also has allowed students to donate proceeds to a host of local, national and international causes over the years. This year's event takes place at Chippewa Valley High School on Saturday, October 8th, with a specific start time to be announced soon. Please mark your calendars for this fun and exciting event, and come cheer on our students!

UAIS and Homeschool Homecomings

The UAIS Homecoming Dance has been scheduled for Friday, October 14th @ Shelby Gardens. A time will be announced soon. Tickets for Homecoming will go on sale sometime in late September, and announcement to students will be made.

In the past, students have been welcomed to attend Homecoming through their home schools. For those schools that allow our students to attend this year, ticket sales will be announced and conducted by Mr. Layson during lunches once that information is provided by home schools. Please note that **students attending UAIS must purchase tickets at UAIS for their home school. Our students are not eligible to purchase tickets through their home schools.**

I hope that this email finds you and your family well. We are excited for the opening of our school year next week on Tuesday. I look forward to a wonderful year with your student at UAIS, and I hope you enjoy the upcoming holiday weekend!

Warm Regards,

Justin Spear
UAIS Program Director